PRELUDE TO

INFINITY

AVENGERS

MARVEL NOW!

AR

HICKMAN
SPENCER
CASELLI
MARTIN

015

PREVIOUSLY IN AVENGERS

DR. BANNER, 35 SECONDS 'TIL SIGNAL COMMENCES--

EACH TIME IT STARTS UP, 90 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S ELECTRICAL GRID GOES DOWN FOR UP TO 8 SECONDS, AND IT'S HAPPENING EVERY SIX MINUTES. WHATEVER I'D USE TO TRACK THE RESIDUAL ENERGY WHEN WE'RE BACK ONLINE--THERE'S SO MUCH OF IT, I'M LOOKING FOR ONE NEEDLE IN ALL THE WORLD'S COLLECTIVE HAYSTACKS.

GIVE ME SATELLITE FEEDS FOR THE ORIGIN SITES AND ANY RELATED TARGETS. DIDN'T SUNSPOT RECEIVE RELATED INTEL ABOUT SOMETHING HAPPENING ON A.I.M. ISLAND?

"SYSTEMS BACK ONLINE. I FOUND THE SOURCE.

"AUSTRALIA WENT DARK FIRST.

"IT'S THE PERTH SITE.

"OKAY, IMMEDIATE, THOROUGHLY VIOLENT CONTACT MADE NOW.

"WAIT. CRAZY ENERGY READINGS...

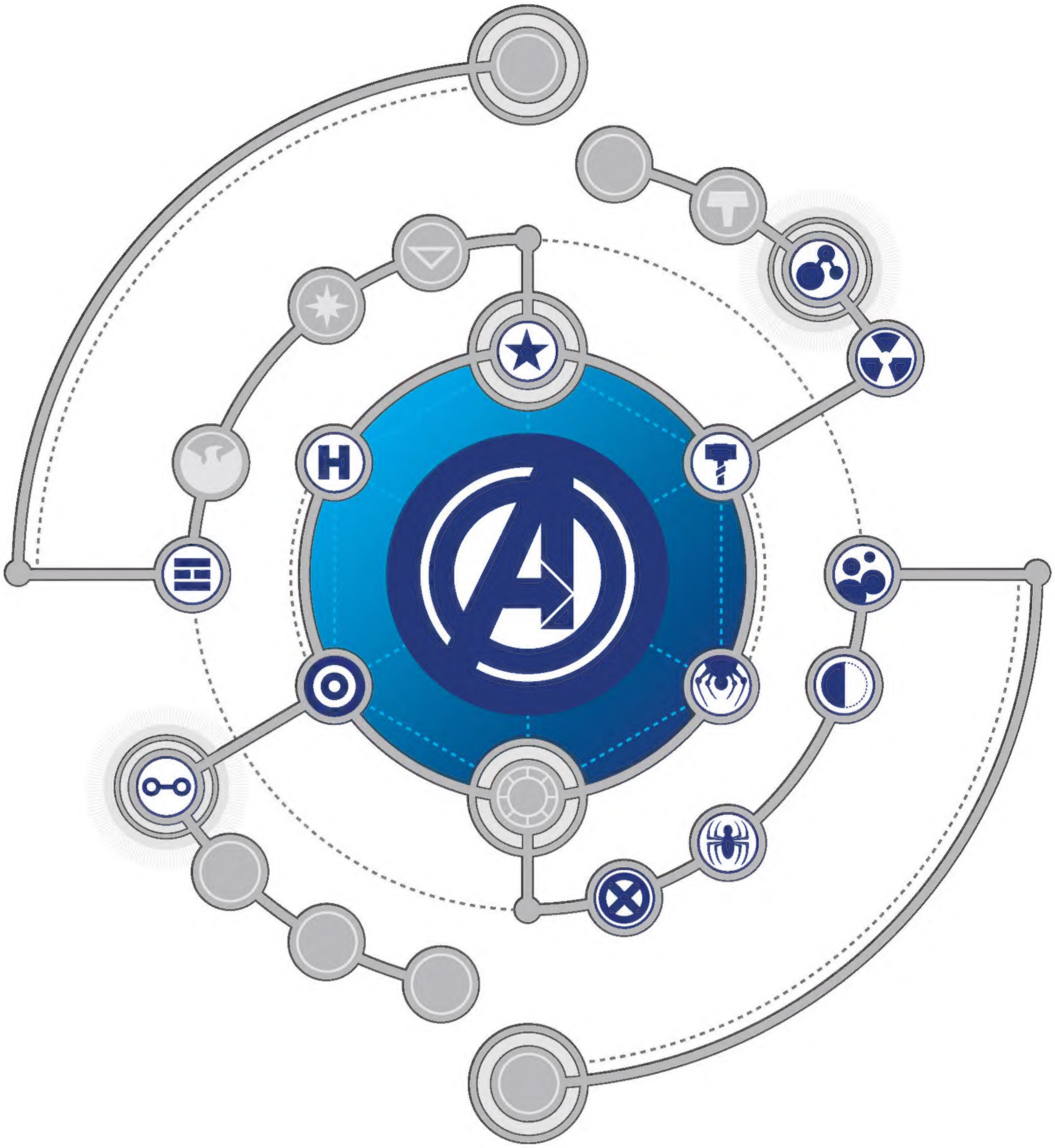
"GET ME EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT ON A.I.M. ISLAND!"

A.I.M. ISLAND.

CRACK

YOU IDIOT...

YOU WOKE IT UP.



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA · IRON MAN · THOR · HAWKEYE · BLACK WIDOW · HULK
WOLVERINE · SPIDER-MAN · CAPTAIN MARVEL · SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON · SHANG-CHI · SUNSPOT · CANNONBALL · MANIFOLD
SMASHER · CAPTAIN UNIVERSE · HYPERION

"SENT AND RECEIVED"

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PERTH, AUSTRALIA.
ORIGIN BOMB IMPACT SITE.

SITE PURPOSE:
COMMUNICATION.

SKRUNNGG

THEY JUST KEEP COMING...

THERE'S TOO MANY OF THE DAMN THINGS, HAWKEYE.

OF COURSE THERE ARE. YOU REALIZE THEY'RE BREEDING WHILE THEY FIGHT, RIGHT? I CAN'T RESPECT THAT.

STAY CLOSE AND COVER EACH OTHER'S BACKS! WON'T NEED TO HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER--

AH, YES, HELP IS ON THE WAY. DON'T WORRY, WE HAVE A GIANT GREEN PARANOID SCHIZOPHRENIC INVESTIGATING THE DILEMMA AS WE SPEAK. YOU ASK ME...

"...I'LL PUT MY FAITH IN THE LESS ASPIRATIONAL BRUTES THIS TIME."

AT THE RATE THEY'RE MULTIPLYING, WE'RE NOT GOING TO FIGHT OUR WAY OUT OF THIS--BRUCE WILL GET DONE WHAT NEEDS TO GET DONE.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, DOCTOR BANNER?

BRUCE? DID YOU GET THAT?

NOT NOW, CAPTAIN...

I'M WORKING.

S.H.I.E.L.D. OBSERVATION STATION:
THE HUB.

OKAY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE SOLVED THE FIRST PROBLEM--WE HAVE, IN FACT, LOCATED THE ORIGIN OF THE SIGNAL RESPONSIBLE FOR WREAKING GLOBAL HAVOC AND THE LOSS OF COUNTLESS LIVES.

THAT'S DELIGHTFUL NEWS, UNTIL YOU GET TO THE PART WHERE IT CHANGES ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

WE NEED TO HELP OUR FRIENDS FIND A WAY THROUGH THE FORMIDABLE DEFENSES THAT HAVE FORMED AROUND THE SITE, AND GIVE THEM SOME KIND OF WORKING PLAN FOR DISENGAGING IT. IF YOU ARE RIGHT-HANDED, THIS IS YOUR NEW FOCUS.

FOR ALL THE LEFTIES--WE'RE ON TO SOMETHING ELSE. SOMETHING A LITTLE BROADER.

WE NEED TO START ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE SIGNAL ITSELF. THE WHY OF IT.

IS IT A DISTRESS SIGNAL? A TRACKING BEACON? A RECONNAISSANCE TRANSMISSION? WE NEED STRATEGY MAPS FOR EVERY POSSIBILITY.

AND THAT'S THE SOFTER SIDE. OUR REAL CONCERN, BIG PICTURE-- IT MAY NOT MATTER WHAT THESE THINGS ARE SAYING...

...SO MUCH AS WHO THEY'RE SAYING IT TO.

DOCTOR BANNER--

I'M SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING, BUT-- YOU ASKED ME TO KEEP AN EYE ON OUR BARBUDA FEED--TO SEE IF ANYTHING WAS HAPPENING ON A.I.M. ISLAND, WITH THE ANOMALY YOU FOUND THERE?

WELL--

YES, AND?

SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY HAPPENING, SIR.

A.I.M. ISLAND.

RUN!

RUNN!!!

LOCKDOWN HAS BEEN INITIATED, SIR. CODE BLACK.

THAT MEANS A FULL ISLAND QUARANTINE.

YES...BUT WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?

EXPLAIN YOURSELF, DOCTOR...

WHY HAVE YOU ABANDONED YOUR LAB?

NOT WORTH IT-- JUST NOT WORTH IT--

I SUPPOSE NOT.

COWARD.

FOLLOW ME, GENTLEMEN...

"LET'S SEE WHAT SCARED THOSE WEAK MEN SO BADLY."

SUPERIA?!

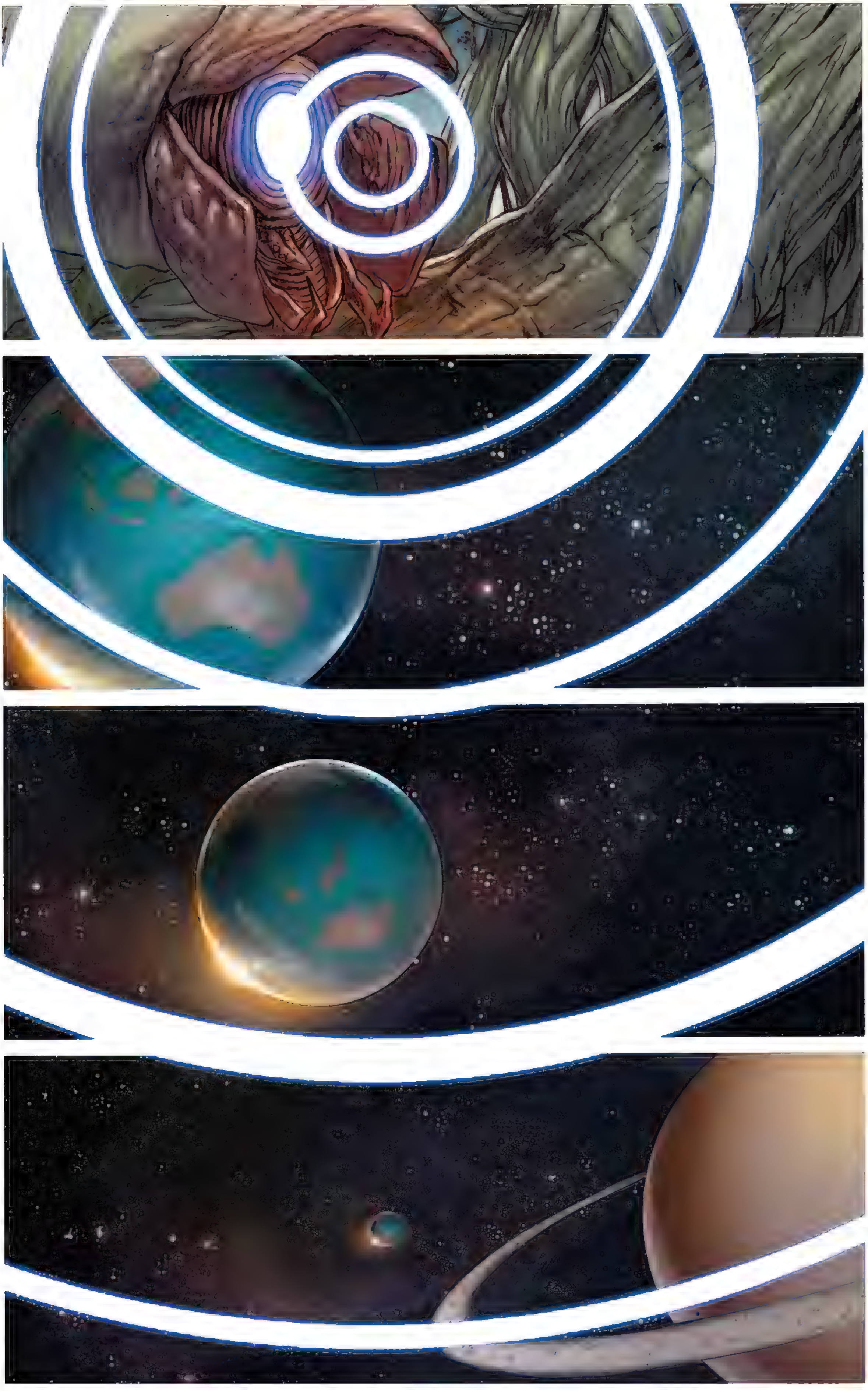
SH-SHOULD NEVER HAVE BROUGHT IT HERE...

WHAT HAPPENED?

THERE'S A PRICE TO PAY FOR IT...

"IT HEARD THE CALL AND BROKE FREE...

"NOW IT'S LOOSE."



MESSAGE RECIEVED.

PERTH, AUSTRALIA.

HOLD THE LINE, PEOPLE-- S.H.I.E.L.D. TEAM'S WORKING ON NEXT STEPS NOW--

THEY'RE TEACHING BEST METHODS FOR INSECT GENOCIDE AT M.I.T. NOW, ARE THEY?

YOU KNOW WHAT, NAT? WHEN YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU'RE RIGHT. FINE, WE IMPROVISE.

THOR! THIS THING IS AN ANTENNA--

CAPTAIN?

LIGHTNING ROD.

"CAPTAIN? ARE YOU THERE?"

"I HEAR YOU, DOCTOR BANNER... GO AHEAD."

"I THINK WE MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING-- BUY US A COUPLE MORE MINUTES."

NO NEED...

I THINK WE'RE DONE HERE.

SO... THAT IT?

NO...

IT NEVER ENDS UNTIL IT HAS TO END, AND THEN TOO LATE TO BEGIN.

NOW IS A TIME FOR BEGINNINGS, AND SO WE HAVE TO START-- AND THE START IS WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE OUR VERY ENDS.

CAPTAIN UNIVERSE--WE COULD'VE USED YOUR HELP, HERE...

HOW CAN WE HELP *YOU*, MOTHER?

DID YOU SEE MY FUZZY SLIPPERS THAT I ACCIDENTALLY MISPLACED? I THINK SOMEONE PUT THEM IN THE TRASH ONE WINTER.

I WISH I HAD A WINTER COAT. IT'S COLD OUT THERE.

AND YOU'RE NOT COMING...

JUST HIM. FOR THE TRIP.

GREAT.

WHY?

IT'S COLD IN SPACE.

YOU DON'T HAVE A WINTER COAT EITHER. YOU SHOULD GET ONE.

SOMEONE BETTER HAVE AN ANSWER FOR ME, AND FAST--

"--WHERE THE HELL DID THESE THINGS COME FROM?!"

THE PEAK.
ORBITAL HEADQUARTERS OF S.W.O.R.D. SENTIENT WORLDS OBSERVATION AND RESPONSE DIVISION.

WE--WE DON'T EXACTLY KNOW, COMMANDER BRAND--

THERE WAS NO WARNING, NO REPORTS OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM--THEY JUST...ARRIVED.

WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COMMUNICATE--BUT WE HAVEN'T, AS OF YET, BEEN ABLE TO ASCERTAIN THE REASON FOR THEIR APPEARANCE--

HERE TO BE A ROYAL PAIN IN MY ASS IS WHAT YOU CAN ASCERTAIN.

COMMANDER.

CAST A NET.

AND THAT'S THE LAST OF THE VESSELS THAT MANAGED TO ENTER ORBIT BEFORE WE COULD GET THE BLOCKADE UP?

UH, WELL-- VERY NEARLY, MA'AM--

NEARLY?

ER, YES--ONE GOT THROUGH.

"DESIGNATION?"

"SKRULL."

GREAT, SO NOW IT'S A BUG HUNT.

SOMEWHERE IN SPACE.

SO WHERE ARE WE NOW? I CAN USUALLY TELL THESE THINGS, BUT--

THIS IS WHERE THE END BEGINS.

DOESN'T LOOK TOO BAD TO ME.

YOU SEE IT AS IT IS...

...AND NOT WHAT IT WILL SOON BE.

THEM? ARE THEY THE PROBLEM?

NO. THEY ARE KNIGHTS. THE GUARDIANS OF THIS PLACE. THEY WILL BE THE FIRST TO STAND--

AND THE FIRST TO FALL.

OH, MAN...

I SEE ALL...

AND ALL IS LOST.

WE CAN'T HAVE LOST IT AGAIN.

IT'S MOVING VERY QUICKLY, DOCTOR--

OR WE'RE MOVING TOO SLOWLY.

SIR--WE DID AS YOU ASKED-- GAMED OUT THE TRAJECTORY BASED ON THE TIMES IT'S SLOWED DOWN ENOUGH TO GET PICKED UP BY SAT--

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS...

IT'S HEADED FOR PERTH, DOCTOR.

LITTLE LATE FOR THE PARTY, PAL.

CAPTAIN, ARE YOU STILL THERE?

WE'RE HERE, BRUCE. JUST CATCHING OUR BREATH--

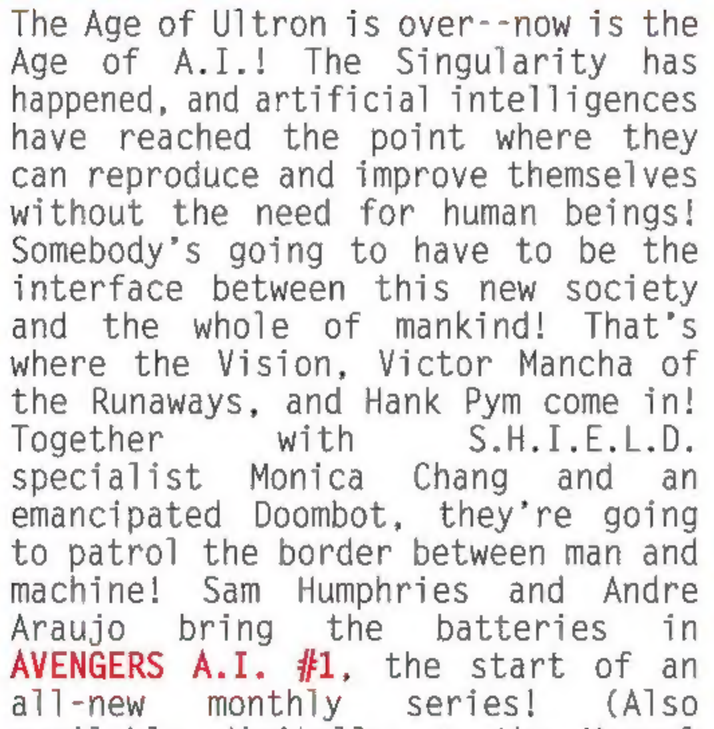
I'D MAKE IT FAST. SOMETHING'S COMING YOUR WAY--

"--SOMETHING BIG."

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

The Age of Ultron is over--now is the Age of A.I.! The Singularity has happened, and artificial intelligences have reached the point where they can reproduce and improve themselves without the need for human beings! Somebody's going to have to be the interface between this new society and the whole of mankind! That's where the Vision, Victor Mancha of the Runaways, and Hank Pym come in! Together with S.H.I.E.L.D. specialist Monica Chang and an emancipated Doombot, they're going to patrol the border between man and machine! Sam Humphries and Andre Araujo bring the batteries in **AVENGERS A.I. #1**, the start of an all-new monthly series! (Also available digitally on the Marvel App if you wanna experience the book in true A.I. style!)



Hello, Earth's Mightiest!

About time you had a (SMASHING!) science superheroine! Izzy Kane makes us aspiring (high school) science nerds look cool.

Exospecs on,
Janna S.
Manila, Philippines

Dear Marvel,

I want to start by saying I am an enormous Marvel fan. There's not an entertainment company out there that has produced more comics and products that I've loved more than Marvel. It has always seemed to be the very essence of what fun and adventurous escapism should be to me.

*These days, I don't recognize Marvel as the fun and amazing universe for everyone. What I'm seeing more and more are stories fit for cynical grown-ups with a need to feel that comics are "legitimate" so they don't feel nerdy reading "kid's stuff". I picked up **UNCANNY AVENGERS #3** today and it really was the last straw for me. The art was flawless and beautiful. The story was interesting. But I am sick to death of the adult language in Marvel books. On the back page, you featured fan art from a kid who loved the Avengers. It is so cool that he felt inspired to make art by comic books. However, in this book that kids read, we have super heroes cursing and a crazed mob screaming, "Kill the sons of bitches!" This is totally inappropriate and strikes me as simply trying way, way too hard to be edgy and "hardcore". It doesn't come off as tough and edgy, it comes off as low class and foul. Marvel survived (and thrived) for so many decades under the vilified Comics Code Authority and still managed to consistently produce top notch, quality, fun comics that could be read by anyone. Doing away with the Authority could have, and has on occasion, meant producing stories of meaningful topics previously off-limits. Instead, it seems the pinnacle of not being held accountable means saying "bitch" like a naughty junior high kid. Believe me, I'm no prude. I cuss like a sailor far too often, but I've never once missed seeing the same in a Marvel comic. I also realize that not everybody has the same level of comfort with these inclusions, so it confuses me that it would be included seeing as how it would alienate members of the audience. And I don't believe it adds anything to the story or the level of drama or impact in the slightest, knowing that less adult words can be substituted without sacrificing the feeling of immediacy. Yes, I know in the real world people curse, but in this world there are people lifting tanks over their heads, so gritty realism is a strange concern.*

For my entire life, Marvel comics have been a family affair. Some of the best memories in my life are lying on the living room floor thumbing through comics with my Dad while waiting for Spider-Man and his Amazing Friends to start. I would love to continue that tradition with fresh new work, but I don't feel comfortable sitting down and reading with my kids out of modern Marvel comics. I feel driven to simply commit to collecting work from the past. Which isn't all that bad, because Marvel did always produce the most amazing comic books in the world!

Till we meet again,
Chase Bowman

Thanks for your letter, Chase! First off, let me say that I think it's great both that you want to share your love of Marvel with your kids, and that you scrutinize their entertainment before allowing them to enjoy it. And I'm sorry that you feel that some of what we're doing goes beyond the bounds of what you're comfortable with. What I can tell you is that we strive to be both contemporary and responsible in what we say and do and in how we say and do it. And you're right, that's not always going to be to everybody's tastes. Even during the Comics Code days, there were people who objected to some of the elements in our stories. At the end of the day, it's absolutely your responsibility to determine what is and isn't right for you and your kids, just as it's our responsibility to produce the best, most relevant, most exciting stories that we're able to. And hopefully, we will meet again!

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AVENGERS #16
PRELUDE TO INFINITY! THE AVENGERS BATTLE TO QUIET THE MAD EARTH!

AVENGERS ARENA #12
THE SHOCKING FINALE OF "GAME ON!"

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #17
THE ENEMY WITHIN! THE MAGNITRON'S GRAND DESIGN IS UNCOVERED!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #14
THE ENEMY WITHIN CONCLUSION! AND A DRAMATIC CHANGE FOR CAPTAIN MARVEL!

NEW AVENGERS #8
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SECRET AVENGERS #6
TRAPPED AND OUTGUNNED IN ENEMY TERRITORY!

SECRET AVENGERS #7
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UNCANNY AVENGERS #10
THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF DEATH ARE UNLEASHED!

YOUNG AVENGERS #7
A NEW MEMBER! AND THE KREE KILL KREW!

YOUNG AVENGERS #8
A RACE ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE! AND A SHOCK FOR YOUNG LOKI!

AVENGERS A.I. #1
FROM THE WRECKAGE OF AGE OF ULTRON, A NEW TEAM RISES TO FACE A NEW MENACE!

A + X #10
THE BLACK WIDOW AND FANTOMEX! THE SCARLET WITCH AND DOMINO!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #16

WHAT IF AVX #1-4

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ZONE